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Vision

**Safer Communities
Through Successful
Youth**

Mission Statement

**ADJC enhances
public protection by
assisting in the
changing of
delinquent thinking
and behaviors of
juvenile offenders
committed to the
Department**



ADJC Re-entry Initiative: Engaging Communities and Families

Back in 2002, the United States Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, awarded the Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections (ADJC) a Serious and Violent Offender Program grant that will allow our Agency to focus additional resources to youth that will be returning to their communities while on parole status. The purpose of the Re-entry Initiative is to reduce the barriers to successful transition to the community and therefore reduce recidivism. ADJC hired four Re-entry Specialists for the four rural counties of Cochise, Mohave, Pinal, and Yuma to assist rural youth and families. As of January 1, 2005, 369 youth have been referred to the Agency's Re-entry Initiative.

One strong component of the Re-entry Initiative is to include family involvement and support at the beginning stages of when a youth is committed to our Agency. Knowing that families may have difficulties in visiting their son or daughter at one of our secure care facilities due to various reasons, ADJC has partnered with the University of Arizona (U of A) Tele-Medicine Network and purchased sic tele-conferencing systems to unite the community with secure care. The partnership with U of A will allow ADJC to join their network, and give families the capability to communicate with their child and staff on a more regular basis. Rural offices currently have access to portable video phones that utilize phone lines. Additional uses include ADJC staffings, training, meetings, clinical assessments, and provider assessments. It is essential to include the child's parents or guardian in the development of the treatment plan that will establish workable goals and objectives for each youth in the areas of education, treatment, life skill development, and transition to parole. ADJC is committed to maintaining the membership with U of A after Re-entry funds are no longer available.

Another way that ADJC engages families is through a network of community providers that offer a wide variety of services to help youth succeed once released back to their community. Families are also often encouraged to participate in these services as well, as it is a means to work together through common issues as one family unit.

Re-entry Specialists are very active in the communities they represent; to bring all parties to the table to discuss what is the best community plan for each youth and their family. Continuous dialogue with families, schools, CPS, behavioral health providers, law enforcement, the courts, and clergy meet frequently to resolve any barriers that may impede a youths' successful transition back to their community.



SUCCESS STORY OF YOUTH

Amil, now age 17, was committed to ADJC on September 19, 2003 from Maricopa County. Amil was committed to ADJC's Adobe Mountain School where he completed his treatment plan, and earned his GED on 2/18/04. Amil is very interested in furthering his education focusing on electronics and will be accepted into the Phoenix Job Corps program. Amil was released on Parole on April 16, 2004.

Amil conducted himself in a very positive manner while on conditional liberty in Gila Bend, Arizona. He worked odd jobs in the community while seeking regular employment, and completed his eight hours of required community service. Amil maintained sobriety, and completed the counseling that he was required to participate in through Southwest Network.

Amil was given absolute discharge from ADJC on June 20, 2005.

B.A.C.E. United

In February 2004, then Interim Director Michael Branham brought key personnel together at each of the four facilities. Teams were created at each facility representing every area from each facility, and were asked to focus on what was being done well, what could be done better, and what could be modified or changed that would assist ADJC in becoming a more productive, consistent, cohesive, and youth-focused agency.

What started as a team building effort at each facility has quickly evolved into four facility teams and one agency-wide team, known as **B.A.C.E. United**. **B.A.C.E. United**, stands for **B**lack Canyon, **A**dobe Mountain, **C**atalina Mountain and **E**agle Point. The mission is "*One Agency—One Vision—You Make the Difference*".

These four facility teams and **B.A.C.E. United** were tasked with sharing ideas, brainstorming solutions, and bringing suggestions and options to the leadership of the Agency. These partnerships created an opportunity to communicate and work together to solve problems, and to build agency-wide consistency.

In the first year, these teams have learned many new skills while moving through the stages in team development. They have been instrumental in developing SMART goals, assisting in strategic planning process, conducting surveys, developing action plans, reviewing policies and procedures, and have become a part of the Quality Assurance process.

This is a new challenge for the teams, and an exciting time in this evolving process. The teams will further enhance and strengthen the communication and problem-solving process throughout the Agency. The end result will be better consistency and service to the community and youth that are under our care.

Director's Corner

Our second monitoring report to the Department of Justice, entailing the status of compliance efforts with the CRIPA Agreement, will be submitted within the next two months. I continue to be upbeat about our Agency's progress in the areas of Education, Suicide Prevention, Juvenile Justice, Medical, and Behavioral Health. Many areas continue to show improvements, and there is still much work that needs to be done; yet I remain encouraged.

I am grateful to the AZ Legislature for their ongoing support of our Agency's effort. An additional \$6.7 million dollars was allocated to help us achieve some of the areas identified in the CRIPA Agreement. Additional staff, in the areas of Youth Correctional Officers, caseworkers, full-time nursing coverage, teachers, and in-service trainers, will be hired. In addition, part of the allocation will be used to continue the suicide renovation projects that were initiated in Fiscal Year 2003. Specific housing units to be renovate include the violent offender unit, Crossroads, and the sex offender unit, Journey, both located at Adobe Mountain School.

If you have any questions or comments, feel free to contact my office at 602-542-4302 or reach me via email at mbranham@azdjcc.gov.